



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

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Bird's Eye View of Fenton Genessee County, Mich. 1880

Stock#: 23073
Map Maker: Stoner

Date: 1880
Place: Madison
Color: Uncolored
Condition: VG
Size: 22 x 15 inches

Price: SOLD



Description:

Rare birdseye view of Fenton, Michigan.

The view shows buildings, streets, railroad lines, parks, squares, etc. Includes a key locating 28 places of interest. The view is based upon original artwork by Joseph Warner.

The only examples of the view we were able to locate are at the Clarke Historical Library (Central Michigan University), Library of Congress and University of Michigan (although at least 1 of these is a photocopy, according to OCLC). Between 1880 and 1881, J.J. Stoner was very active in Michigan. OCLC locates bird's eye views of 14 different Michigan Towns (all but 3 in one example).

The history of Fenton dates to 1834. Clark Dibble was threading his way through the trackless wilderness from Shiawassee to Grumlaw (Grand Blanc), and by some mistake he found himself on the White Lake Trail. Here, he turned north and came upon a spot on the Shiawassee River where several Indian trails came together. He was so taken with the location and its beauty that he stayed to thoroughly examine the lay of the land. On his return to Grumlaw, he induced several families to settle here. By 1836, "Dibbleville" consisted of a hand full of people, a saw mill and two small houses, all built beside the river. Dibbleville was at the center of five well-traveled trails and many families came to make their homes here after the land was platted in 1839. The borders for Dibbleville included the area from South Street to Robert Street and from East Street to West Street.

The City's current name reportedly came from the winner of a card game on August 24, 1837, between



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William M. Fenton (a lawyer and land speculator) and Robert LeRoy (a land speculator). The consolation prize of the game, given to Robert LeRoy, was putting his name to LeRoy Street, the main route through the City. The game did not stop at one hand. The men continued on naming other streets, choosing names in turn, according to the fall of the cards. Among these were "Elizabeth", street, now known as Shiawassee, named for Mrs. LeRoy: "Adelaide" for Mrs. Fenton, and "Lavinia" for Mrs. Rockwell. Later, LeRoy built a hotel in 1837 in Fenton and later became postmaster. Fenton went on to become lieutenant governor of Michigan.

In the 1850s, the railroad reached and terminated in Fenton, making this village an important commercial and transportation center. Wagon trips came down from Flint, Saginaw, and the north, since Fenton was the farthest any railroad had reached in this part of the State. To facilitate shipping, a plat road was built between Flint and Fenton. Fenton prospered and was incorporated as the Village of Fenton in 1863. It wasn't until 1964 however that the Village of Fenton was incorporated as the City of Fenton.

Detailed Condition: